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and undecorated with trophies, will sink into oblivion amidst the civilized world, save in the memory of the humane philanthropist, who can duly appreciate the value of his labours, in converting a lawless race of savages into useful and peaceable citizens, without the effusion of blood, by the mild but certain method of reciprocal benefit.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE RUINED ABBEY  
OF BONA MARGA, IN THE COUNTY  
ANTRIM.

**A** LONG the extensive coast of the county Antrim, are scattered several ruins, whose origin is generally lost in fable, but whose rude and massive architecture evince their remote antiquity. Many of these were evidently intended for permanent castles of defence against the predatory invasions of the Scotch.—Some for the residence of the baronial chieftain, and others for temporary watch-towers. Amid this number of Gothic remains, the only monastic building on the coast is the abbey of Bona Marga, which was founded in 1509, by Charles M'Donnell, for monks of the Franciscan order, and which may be ranked among the latest of the monastic edifices raised in Ireland. It is situated about a quarter of a mile from the village of Ballycastle, commanding to the west a view of the ocean, with the bold outlines of the rocks that rise in many a fantastic shape along the coast; to the south the undulating line of the mountain of Knock-lead, and to the east the extensive glen of Carey. The chapel is one hundred feet in length, and thirty-four in breadth. The refectory, cells, and other apartments, are too much dilapidated to allow any accurate description of their former size. The eastern gable of the chapel which is still in a tolerable state of preservation is adorned with several well executed devices in bass-relief, which however are now rapidly mouldering to decay. To the east of the great entrance to the chapel are the remains of a small edifice with narrow pointed gables, which seems to have

been the lodge of a porter, or lay-brother. The venerable stillness of this sacred spot, the numerous reliques of mortality that surround it, and the remembrance it produces of days that have been, give it even in its present desolated state an appearance more interesting, more impressive than it possessed when rising in all its plenitude of monkish pride; for, in viewing a well finished modern structure, there is a *ne plus ultra*, upon which the eye and mind are equally forced to rest. But in the contemplation of an ancient ruin, there is such room for imagination to add a thousand ornamental touches, such softened regret for the transiency of human workmanship, that its greatest interest arises from its decay, and it is from this principle that many a coarse and barbarous mass of Gothic labour, has, from a lapse of time mouldered into beauty.

The view of Bona Marga has of late been necessarily injured by the addition of a new roof to a small oratory which was built adjoining the great Abbey church, by a former Earl of Antrim, over the ashes of several of his family, whose burial place it is; a window in this oratory has also been stopped up, over which is an inscription, now rendered almost illegible, but of which the following is an accurate copy:

In Dei Dei-parisque virginis honorem,  
Nobilissimus atque illustrissimus  
Randolphus M'Donnell  
Comes De Antrim,  
Hoc sacellum fieri curavit,  
Anno Dom. 1621.

In the Antrim vault there is a singular inscription, in Irish characters, on the coffin of the first Marquis of Antrim, a transcript of which, with a translation, shall appear in an ensuing Magazine.

L.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

CAMP MEETINGS.

**I** LATELY received the following account of one of the Camp-meetings so common in America, from an intelligent Correspondent, in New York. It may probably be gratifying to several of your readers, as it holds out in a strong point of view,